

NEWS RELEASE

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Lincoln Man Pleads Guilty to Producing and Possessing Child Pornography

Springfield, Illinois -- Rodger A. Heaton, United States Attorney for the Central District of Illinois, announced that Howard D. Pinkley, age 58, of 929 Broadway Street, Lincoln, Illinois, entered pleas of guilty today to charges he produced and possessed child pornography.

Assistant U.S. Attorney John Childress presented the factual basis for the plea during a court appearance this afternoon before U.S. Magistrate Judge Byron Cudmore. Assistant U.S. Attorney Childress stated that law enforcement agents were notified on November 9, 2005 of pornographic photos of an unidentified child that were developed at a processing facility in Crawfordsville, Indiana, as part of an order placed by Pinkley at a Wal-Mart in Lincoln. Mr. Childress further stated that from November 2003 through November 10, 2005, Pinkley enticed a minor to engage in sexually explicit conduct to produce visual depictions, and that he possessed books, videotapes, computer images and other materials containing three or more images of child pornography.

Sentencing is scheduled for June 2, 2006, at 3:30 p.m. before U.S. District Judge Jeanne E. Scott. The offense of production of child pornography carries a mandatory minimum of 15 years to 30 years in prison; possession of child pornography carries a maximum sentence of 10 years imprisonment and a fine of \$250,000.

The charges are the result of an investigation by the Bureau of Immigration and Customs Enforcement. The case is being prosecuted by Assistant U.S. Attorney John Childress.

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